

**ALDRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

* * *

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Health and Sanitary Condition

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year ending 31st December, 1954

by

V. E. MILNE

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

U. BOOCOCK

M.S.I.A.,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

* *

NORMAN A. TECTOR, LTD.,

Printers and Publishers,

Aldridge Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part-Time Officer.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

U. BOOCOCK, M.S.I.A.

Whole-Time Officer.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

K. B. WILLIAMS, M.S.I.A.

D. G. RELPH

(Appointed 1st February, 1955)

Clerks:

MISS B. M. MOORE

MISS B. R. JONES

To the Aldridge Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirtieth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1954, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/54 of the 15th December, 1954.

Area.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

Population.

The estimated resident population at mid-summer, 1954, is 31,440 (an increase of 1,210 from the previous year). This gives a population of 3.386 per acre.

Inhabited Houses

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books, at 31/12/54 was 9,118—an increase of 517 from last year.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value was £157,506, and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £619 for the year 1954-55.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are:—Brickmaking, mining, agricultural, and some heavy industries are now being established. The district is also largely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics relate to the nett births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:—

Live Births—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	226	218	444
Illegitimate	8	4	12
	—	—	—
	234	222	456
	—	—	—

Of these 456 births, 227 were registered locally, the remaining 229 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 49.7 per cent of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is less than the percentage last year (viz., 52.4%).

AREA COMPARABILITY FACTORS (A.C.F.)

For some years now the above Factors (A.C.F.), used in calculating the corrected Birth and Death rates, have been 0.88 and 1.29 respectively. The result of using these factors has been to decrease the Birth Rate and increase the crude Death Rate. For the year 1954 both Factors have been altered—the Birth A.C.F. from 0.88 to 0.94 and the Death A.C.F. from 1.29 to 1.40. Consequently the live Birth Rate is not reduced so much, and the crude Death Rate increased more, this year, than in recent years.

The unadjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population is 14.01 and the corrected Live Birth Rate 13.16.

The Live Birth Rate (14.01) compares unfavourably with the Live Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales, viz., 15.2, but the difference is less this year than last, when the figures were 13.89 and 15.5 respectively. The amended A.C.F. has, however, assisted in closing the gap.

It should also be noted that no birth took place in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, where 1,446 inmates and staff reside. It follows, therefore, there were 456 live births amongst the remainder of the population, viz., 29,994 (that is, 31,440 less 1,446). Excluding St. Margaret's Hospital, the unadjusted Live Birth Rate for the district was 15.2 and the corrected Birth Rate was 14.28 for the year 1954.

Illegitimate Birth Rate.—This rate as calculated above is 0.38.

Still Birth Rate.—12 Still Births (Males 8, females 4) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 25.64, or 0.38 per 1,000 of the population. The Still Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales is 24.

For the year 1953 the adjusted Live Birth Rate was 12.2 and the Still Birth Rate 11.76.

Death Rate.—There were 219 deaths (males 116, females 103) and the Corrected Death Rate is 9.74 per 1,000 of the population. The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.3.

Of the 219 deaths registered in 1954, 10 occurred in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, so that 209 deaths occurred amongst the remainder of the population.

Excluding St. Margaret's Hospital, the Crude and Adjusted Death Rates for the district are 6.96 and 9.74 respectively.

Seventy-eight deaths were transferred into the district and seven were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate.—8 infants under one year of age died (of these, 5 were under four weeks of age), giving an Infantile Death Rate of 17.54 per 1,000 live births.

The infantile death rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 25.5 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

The infantile death rate for the district was 30.95 for the year 1953.

No illegitimate Infant died under one year of age.

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer, etc.—Thirty-one deaths resulted from Cancer and included in these, were five deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus. No death from Measles and Whooping Cough.

No death was due to Diphtheria, and five resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities.—The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year reports on five swabs from throats, etc., and eleven specimens of blood, faeces, etc., were received. Eighty-three specimens of sputa were examined for tubercle bacilli (9 positive and 74 negative).

General Provisions of Health Services.

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council, as the Local Health Authority:—

Ambulance Service. Ante-Natal Clinics.

Home Help Service Infant Welfare Centres.

Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners,
and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics).

Laboratory Services.—The Public Health Laboratory Services, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 377). Director, Lt.-Col. R. N. Phease (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis.—County Analyst, A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford. (Tel.: Stafford 578).

Hospitals.—Those chiefly used are: The General, The Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall, The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation.—Hospitalization, on medical grounds is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox. Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Disease.—Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis.—Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Water.

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, has kindly let me have the following information for the year 1954:—

1. The supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

2. The supply is at present chiefly derived from one Pumping Station (Bourne Vale Pumping Station) within and six Pumping Stations outside the boundaries of the Urban District. A proportion of water from surface sources is also supplied to parts of the District.

Regular and frequent samples are examined from the Pumping Stations, both bacteriological and chemical.

Bacteriological samples are also examined of the water prior to treatment where possible. During 1954, 53 samples were examined from Bourne Vale Pumping Station, all of which were satisfactory.

333 samples were examined from the reservoirs at Barr Beacon, and all were free from coliform bacteria.

Twelve samples from the Waterman's house, Aldridge, were all satisfactory and the average chemical results for 1954 were:—

pH	7.4			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	136	parts per million		
Chlorides (Cl)	24.0	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) .....	.005	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	6.3	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3hr. at 27°C).....	.13	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	129	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	99	"	"	"
Total Hardness	228	"	"	"
Total Solids	347	"	"	"
Iron (Fe).....	.02	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	"	"	"
Calcium (Ca)	79.6	"	"	"
Magnesium (Mg)	6.6	"	"	"
Sulphate (SO ₄)	61.9	"	"	"
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl. .....	.04	"	"	"

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 12 samples from the Waterman's house being all free from any detectable quantity of lead.

4. Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the Pumping Stations.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is

performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1954 was 8856.

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the District has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

Public Cleansing.

This service has continued to be economically and efficiently conducted under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector (full details in Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Schools.

It was not considered necessary to close any School on account of an outbreak of infectious disease.

The Schools are under the control of the County Education Authority.

Housing.

The number of houses erected during the year 1954:—
Erected by Local Authority.

Erected during 1954	In course of erection at end of 1954	Erected during 1954	In course of erection at end of 1954
152	264	301	408
TOTALS: Erected during 1954.....			453

In course of erection at end of 1954..... 672

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act 1936, etc., will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sampling of Milk and Foods.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (See Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admissions of Infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

Diphtheria.

Four cases of diphtheria were notified during 1954—three from St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, and one from Aldridge.

The three cases from St. Margaret's Hospital were fortunately due to a comparatively mild type of infection and responded well to treatment. All efforts failed to discover whether any or all of these three cases (aged 22, 37 and 48 years) had ever been immunised.

The case from Aldridge, aged six years, was admitted to Moxley Isolation Hospital. Although not immunised in infancy, she had received two injections at the age of 5 years. This might appear to be rather disturbing, were it not recognised that immunisation does NOT protect 100% of the children immunised, the figure being in the region of 95%, which means that 19 out of every 20 children immunised are protected against this serious disease. This alone must surely warrant every endeavour in future immunisation campaigns.

All available clinical information in respect of these four cases was sent to Ministry of Health.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

Assuming the age groups of the population have not recently materially altered, the estimated age groups at June 30th, 1954 (when the estimated total population was 31,440) are as follows:—

0— 4 Age Group	3,098
5—14 Age Group	5,440

For the previous year these figures were 2,982 and 5,231.

The following information has been given by Dr. C. E. Jamison, the Area Medical Officer:—

The number of children *immunised* for the first time during the year 1954 are: —

Under 1 year of age	91
1—4 years of age	276
5—14 years of age	55
Total.....	422

The number of children re-immunised during the year 1954 is:—

All ages	148
----------------	-----

The total number of children immunised at 31/12/54 are as follows:—

Last complete course of injections Under (Whether primary or reinforcing)	Ages			Totals
	1	1-4	5-14	
Given during 1950-54	24	1,003	2,666	3,693
Given during 1949 or earlier	—	—	2,120	2,120

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954.

Disease.	Total Cases notified after correction.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	4	—
Small-Pox	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	45	—
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	—	—
Peuperal Pyrexia	1	—
Pneumonia	18	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Dysentery	4	—
Measles (excluding Rubella)	32	—
Whooping Cough.....	76	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	1
" " (Non-Paralytic) ...	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—
Food Poisoning	4	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—	—
" " (Post-Infectious)	1	—

Analysis of the Infectious Cases (After Correction) in Age Groups and in Wards is given below:

AGE GROUPS.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Polio- myelitis
Under 1 year.....	—	—	1	7	—
1-2 years	1	—	6	17	—
3-4 years	8	—	3	19	2
5-9 years	31	1	19	32	1
10-14 years	5	—	2	1	—
15-24 years	—	1	1	—	—
25 and over.....	—	2	—	—	—
WARD.					
Aldridge	9	1	7	22	1
Great Barr	3	3	8	11	—
Pheasey	4	—	1	19	—
Pelsall	11	—	15	6	2
Rushall	9	—	1	11	—
Streetly	9	—	—	7	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	45	4	32	76	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cases notified from Insti- tutions and included in the above figures.....	—	3	2	—	—

				Pneumonia.							
AGE GROUPS.											
0—4 years.....				8	|	3					
5—14 years.....					|	2	|	Erysipelas.			
15—44 years.....				5							
45—64 years.....					|		|	Meningococcal			
65 and over				2			|	Meningitis.			
WARD.											
Aldridge				9							
Great Barr				3							
Pelsall .....				—	|	1					
Pheasey				4	|	1					
Rushall				2							
Streetly .....				—	|	—					
TOTALS				18	2	—	1	—	4	—	1 4

Cases notified from Institutions and included in the above figures

2 — — — — 4 — 1 —

It will be seen that only one case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following table shows the number of certain Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1954, and the attack rates per 1,000 of the population :—

	Cases.	Rate.
Smallpox	—	—
Typhoid	—	—
Para-Typhoid	—	—
Scarlet Fever.....	45	1.43
Whooping Cough.....	76	2.09
Diphtheria	4	0.12
Erysipelas	2	0.06
Pneumonia	18	0.57
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1	0.03
Poliomyelitis	3	0.09
Measles	32	1.01

Poliomyelitis.

Three cases of Poliomyelitis (paralytic) were notified in 1954—aged 5, 4, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. Two were boys and one a girl. Full reports in respect of these three cases were forwarded to the Director, Medical Research Council, London.

Unfortunately one case proved fatal.

Small Pox.

No case, or suspected case of small pox was brought to my notice.

Accommodation is available at Witton Small Pox Hospital for the isolation and treatment of suspected or confirmed cases of small pox.

Tuberculosis.

Thirty-eight cases of tuberculosis (See Table below) were entered on the Register, 31 Pulmonary and 7 Non-Pulmonary.

Six cases occurred in Aldridge, 7 in Rushall, 11 in Pelsall, 6 in Pheasey, none in Streetly and 8 in Great Barr.

Eleven of these 38 cases were notified from Institutions and 19 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A" as follows:—

Inward Transfers	10
Forms 1 or 2 (from Institutions)	3
First notification after death	6
	19

It will be seen 10 cases were transferred into the District. Only 2, however, were transferred out.

The inward transfers came to reside as follows:—

In Aldridge 2, Great Barr 2 (both on Shaw's Caravan Site), Pelsall 2, Pheasey 1 and Rushall 3.

The following table shows the *total* number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year, classified according to sex and age at the time of the notification.

The total on the Register increased by 24 during the year 1954, i.e. 177 against 153.

Age Groups.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0—1	2	—	—	—
1—5	3	1	1	1
5—10	5	3	3	2
10—15	5	2	—	2
15—20	9	11	—	2
20—25	13	14	2	2
25—35	20	20	2	—
35—45	17	13	—	3
45—55	8	3	1	—
55—65	4	—	—	—
over 65	3	—	—	—
TOTALS	89	67	9	12

At the end of 1953 the number on the Register was 153. The notification of Tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Two deaths from Pulmonary and seven deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered, giving a death rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.06 and 0.22 respectively.

General Register Office Circular (M.O.H.) 4/1952 laid down that from 1st January, 1953, all deaths (including tuberculosis deaths) in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, must not be regarded as outward transferable deaths.

The following Table shows the cases of Tuberculosis entered on the register and the number of deaths, according to the death returns, from this disease (classified according to age and sex) during the year 1954:—

Age. Periods.	Cases entered in Register.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.	Pulmonary. Male.	Non-Pulmonary. Female.
0—1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	6	—	—	—	—	1	1
35—45	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	2
45—55	3	1	1	—	—	1	—	1
55—65	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
65 and up	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	20	11	3	4	1	1	2	5

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

Food Poisoning.

Four notifications of food poisoning were received during 1954. Fortunately all were of a mild type.

Following information received from the Minister of Health, all food distributors and canteen managers in the District were requested to withdraw from sale any tins of Galtee cream they may have had in stock. Fortunately no tins of the cream were found in the District.

Altogether ten cases of *suspected* food poisoning were notified, but after full investigation it was considered six of the ten were not genuine cases.

Mortuary.

The Rushall Mortuary has now ceased to be used and arrangements have been made for the use of the Mortuaries at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, and at Brownhills, until such time as the new Mortuary in Aldridge is completed.

Privies.

The number of privies remaining throughout the district is 18; these are in situations where a public sewer is not available.

Vaccination.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917 (See Small Pox).

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).

One person was removed from Aldridge to Fernleigh Hospital, Stafford, in March 1954 by a Court Order.

He was aged, was living in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to himself and was not receiving proper care and attention from other persons.

In June 1954 I was informed by the Medical Officer of Fernleigh Hospital that this aged person was perfectly happy, had not requested to leave the Hospital and was quite willing to remain therein.

Full co-operation was received from the National Assistance Board in respect of this person.

Rushall Brook Course.

Repeated inspections were made of the above course, which receives the effluent of the Barns Lane Sewage Works. A representative of the Land Drainage Department (Staffordshire Executive Committee) was present on one of these inspections, together with the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr. S. Whitehill of the Surveyor's Department. It was agreed that approximately 1,284 yards of the brook course should be cleansed, but at the end of the year the cleansing had not been commenced.

Camp Sites for Nomads and Gipsies.

A full report on the above sites was compiled by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself and forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health at his request.

The object of such controlled sites are to:—

- (1) obviate nuisance.
- (2) enable the occupants to use the educational and social facilities available, and,
- (3) break down the sense of exclusion.

Mass Radiography Unit.

Mass Radiography Survey carried out by a Birmingham Mobile Unit at Wesley Church Hall, Aldridge, 27th April to 3rd May, 1954.

The following report gives details of the work done and the results obtained by the Unit during its visit to Aldridge.

Groups Examined:

	Male.	Female.	TOTAL.
1. Schools	176	149	325
2. Doctors Cases	4	7	11
3. Council Employees.....	58	6	64
4. Miscellaneous firms and General Public	893	715	1608
	—	—	—
	1131	877	2008
	—	—	—

Recalls:

55 persons of those examined during the survey were recalled for further investigation and of these, 21 were seen by the Medical Director.

Results of Survey:

1. Tuberculosis discovered:

GROUP	ACTIVE	INACTIVE		No Action
	*Referred	*Referred	Doctor	
1. Schools.	—	—	—	—
2. Doctors Cases.	—	1	—	—
3. Council Employees.	—	—	—	—
4. Miscellaneous firms and General Public.	2	4	—	—
	2	5	—	—

* "Referred"—The family doctor was advised to refer the patient to the Chest Clinic for investigation or treatment.

2. Non-Tuberculous Conditions:

GROUP.	Referred*	Doctor.	No Action.
1. Schools	—	—	1
2. Doctors Cases	—	—	—
3. Council Employees	1	—	—
4. Miscellaneous Firms and General Public	2	6	6
	—	—	—
	3	6	7
	—	—	—

* "Referred"—The family doctor was advised to refer the patient to the Chest Clinic for investigation or treatment.

Comments:

The number of people X-rayed is just slightly below what was expected and programmed for, but is quite satisfactory.

Only two active cases of Tuberculosis were discovered. This reflects the healthiness of the District and the population generally, and may be regarded as a credit to the local General Practitioners, for having been alive to the dangers of tuberculosis, and for having discovered any active cases they attended professionally.

The two active cases and the greater number of inactive cases were found amongst the employees of miscellaneous firms and the general public.

It will be noted 16 non-tuberculous conditions were brought to light.

A re-visit of the Unit to Aldridge has been promised for 1955.

Our grateful thanks are due to the Medical Director, the Organising Secretary and the staff of the Unit for their close co-operation, efficient conduct of the Survey, and for their detailed reports.

General Remarks.

The health of the population during 1954 was good.

The adjusted Birth Rate, it is pleasing to note, is somewhat higher than in the last few years—the rates being:—

1951—11.85.

1952—11.59.

1953—12.20.

1954—13.16.

The corrected death rate too, is lower than in the last few years:—

1952—9.79.

1953—10.32.

1954—9.74.

The Crude Death Rate is considerably lower than the Death Rate for all England and Wales, viz., 11.3.

The Infantile Death Rate (17.54) was exceptionally low (in 1953 it was 30.95). The rate for all England and Wales was 25.5 and was the lowest ever recorded for this country.

For the seventh consecutive year, it is most gratifying to record that no Maternal Death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

The number of Tuberculous persons re-housed during the year was 5. The co-operation between the Housing and the Health Committees in the problem of re-housing tuberculous persons, families from houses to be demolished, and overcrowded families continues to be close, and is most essential for the well being of the persons concerned.

The Health Department, during the year, was transferred from Anchor Road to Leighswood Road, Aldridge. The more spacious and better lighted accommodation considerably improve the working conditions of the Staff, but the furnishings of the new premises are

in need of improvement. It is hoped that the furnishing standard of the Health Department offices may soon be brought more into line with that of other Council Departments.

SLUM CLEARANCE.—During the year, together with the Chief Sanitary Inspector a report, indicating the number of unfit houses which was proposed to deal with during the next 5 years, was compiled as follows:—

Heath End	80.
Pelsall Ward	61.
Gt. Barr Ward	9.
Rushall Ward	31.
Aldridge Ward	27.
Streetly Ward	4.
<hr/>	
TOTAL	212
<hr/>	

The work of the Department continues to be carried out efficiently—each member of the Staff working in co-operation with the others. Almost uninterrupted service was given by all the Staff from the Chief Sanitary Inspector downwards, and all of them conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

Mr. Boocock's intimate knowledge of the District and its sanitary requirements acquired over a period of more than 26 years is of the greatest value.

I again desire to thank you Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen, and also all fellow Officers and Council Staff, for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,
Medical Officer of Health.

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 1954.

Live Births/Deaths—Annual rates per 1,000 population.

Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.

Infant Mortality—Rate per 1,000 related live births.

Birth Rate 15.2—0.3 lower than that for 1953.

Still Births 24.0—Compared with 22.5 for 1953.

Death Rate 11.3—0.1 lower than that for 1953.

Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) 25.5—the lowest ever recorded. This was 1.3 below that for 1953—the previous lowest.

The estimated total population for England and Wales for the year 1954 was 44,480,000, an increase of 190,000 over the estimate for 1953.

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1954)

	<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
ALL CAUSES		116	103
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	5	
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	
4. Diphtheria	—	—	
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	
8. Measles	—	—	
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	—	1	
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.....	2	2	
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	1	
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	3	
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	10	
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.....	—	—	
16. Diabetes	2	—	
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	15	10	
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	14	7	
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4	
20. Other Heart Disease	20	25	
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	5	6	
22. Influenza	—	—	
23. Pneumonia	1	4	
24. Bronchitis	6	2	
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	2	
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	4	
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—	
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ...	10	11	
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	
34. All Other Accidents	5	2	
35. Suicide	2	1	
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—		Male.	Female.
Total	3	5	
Legitimate	3	5	
Illegitimate	—	—	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—			
Total	2	3	
Legitimate	2	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	
Live Births:—			
Total	234	222	
Legitimate	226	218	
Illegitimate	8	4	

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1954.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-Eighth Annual Report for the year 1954.

I would respectfully express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support, and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk of the Council, and Surveyor, for the help and co-operation received from them.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with water closets provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the district ... 18

Number of pails remaining in the district 71

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. C. E. Andreasen, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	152
(b) By Other Authority	...	...	...	...	...	90
(c) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	211

Number of Houses in Course of Erection at the end of the Year.

(a) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	264
(b) By Other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	408

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK.

(April 1st, 1954, to March 31st, 1955).

Rats and Mice destruction work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division.

One man is employed part-time as rat operative. The time spent on rat work has been (during the year), equivalent to 53% of the full working time of one man.

The rat operative is employed part-time on other services.

PREMISES INSPECTED.

(To Confirm Infestation or Otherwise)

	Totals Inspected.	Found Infested.	Found Non-Infested.
Dwelling Houses	95	60	35
Business Premises	13	12	1
Council Premises	5	5	—
	—	—	—
	113	77	36
	—	—	—

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES.

Dwelling Houses...	...	...	566
Business Premises	...	...	130
Council Premises (Tests) Sewers	...	...	140
Council Premises	...	...	107
	—	—	—
	943	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Contact with the brick industry is being maintained.

Some improvement has been made by the replacement in one case of steam boiler plant by electrical power.

Consultations have been made during the year with Dr. L. E. Hockin, Alkali Inspector.

In the progressive development of industries in the district it is of the greatest importance that, in any approvals given for the commencement of new industries the greatest care should be exercised to avoid industrial plants which are potential producers of smoke and offensive gases.

Some offensive gases produced in certain industries have proved themselves to be a major question for local authorities, and to find a remedy for nuisance arising, is invariably a very costly matter for the industry concerned.

This being so, it is obvious that the greatest caution should be exercised.

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

(1st April, 1954, to 31st March, 1955).

I have the honour to submit herewith my Report on the work of collection and disposal of house refuse for the year 1954-1955, and for part of the same year for the collection of kitchen waste.

Staff.

The number of men to be employed as shown on estimate for the year 1954-1955 was 21.

The possible hours of men actually employed was a total equivalent of 18.2 men on the year, whereas the actual attendance at work of men employed shows only an average equivalent of 16.3 men at work each week throughout the year.

It will, therefore, be seen that there has been throughout the year a deficiency of staff actually at work, equivalent to 1.9 men each week.

Further, a deficiency of men actually employed, as against estimate of 21 men shows an under-staffing of 4.7 men.

In the recruitment of labour for work of house refuse collection and disposal it is found that men of middle age will remain at this work only for short periods, which involves constant changing of workmen.

Absenteeism.

Absenteeism has occurred with loss of possible working hours to the following extent:—

Working hours lost by absenteeism:—

One man hours lost by workers certified sick ...	4006	or	9.6%	of possible working hours
One man hours lost through causes other than certified sickness ...	814	or	1.95 %	,
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total one man hours lost ...	4820	or	11.55 %	,

Bonus.

The amount of bonus paid to men employed in the house refuse and salvage collection services is as follows:—

Incentive Bonus £2,053 6s. 6d.

Sick Benefit.

The amount of wages paid as sick benefit to the staff whilst absent from work for reasons of certified sickness has shown a net cost to the Council of £377 5s. 4d.

Vehicles Employed.

One 10.5 cubic yard S. & D. Freight Dust Cart.

Vehicle No. 3. (part year only).

One 13 cubic yard S. & D. Freight Dust Cart.

Vehicle No. 4.

One 13 cubic yard S. & D. Freight Dust Cart.

Vehicle No. 5.

One Fore and Aft S. & D. Tipping Dust Cart.

Vehicle No. 6.

One S. & D. Hired Vehicle.

The Fore and Aft vehicle has continued to prove useful, and is contributing very largely to a more regular collection, and to the attainment of a normal weekly collection during the year.

Disposal of Refuse.

Tipping has been carried out at Radleys, Winterley Lane, Rushall, and from March, at Stubbers Green, Aldridge, on the Council's own land.

Progress of Work.

The average period of collection throughout the year has been:—	
Rushall and Pelsall	7.1 Days
Aldridge and Streetly	7.6 ,,
Great Barr and Pheasey	7.4 ,,

Giving an average for all districts on the year	7.3 ,,

Vehicle Working Days Lost.

The following working days were lost by the respective vehicles as shown:—

S. & D. No. 4	25 days.
S. & D. No. 5	17.3 days.
S. & D. Hired Vehicle	2.3 days.

Total Days Lost	44.6 days.

Vehicle Costings.

From the Statement below, costings of running each individual vehicle will be seen:—

Vehicle.	Miles.	Hours worked.	Cost per hour.	Miles per gallon.	Total Expenditure.
S. & D. No. 3 ...	856	385.5	6/9d.	3.9	£130 4 4
S. & D. No. 4 ...	6,893	2,427.75	4/2d.	4.8	£506 1 5
S. & D. No. 5 ...	5,466	2,470.25	3/2.75d.	3.9	£398 19 1
S. & D. No. 6 ...	6,204	2,634.75	6/3.81d.	6.1	£832 5 6
S. & D. Hired Vehicle ...	5,401	2,583	2/8.75d.	4.3	£352 11 6
TOTALS	24,820	10,501.25			£2220 1 10

COST STATEMENT SUMMARY 1954-55.

Particulars.	Collection. £	Disposal £	Totals. £	Percentage of total gross expenditure %
1. GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
1. Labour	6476.36	1435.23	7911.59	64
2. Transport	2100.4	38.37	2138.77	18
3. Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2207.8	17.52	2225.32	18
Total Gross Expenditure	10784.56	1491.12	12275.68	100
2. GROSS INCOME	—	386.04	386.04	—
3. NET COST	10784.56	1105.08	11889.64	—
4. Capital Expenditure met from revenue (including above) ...	539.1	—	5391.1	
UNIT COSTS:				
5. Gross Cost per ton, labour only.	13 6.7	3 —	16 6.7	
6. Gross cost per ton, transport only.	4 4.7	.9	4 5.5	
7. Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	£1 2 6.7	2 3.6	£1 4 10.5	
8. Net cost per 1,000 population			£	£
9. Net cost per 1,000 premises ..	343.02	35.14	378.16	1125.1
				1240.4

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

10. Area (statute acres)—land and inland water	9,284 acres
11. Population at 30th June, 1954 (Registrar-General's Estimate)	31,440 persons
12. Total refuse collected (tons)—Estimated ...	9,650.3 tons
13. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	18.64 cwts.
14. Number of premises from which refuse is collected	9,586 premises
15. Premises from which daily collection is made	Nil
16. Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point	3.5 miles
17. Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as estimated percentage of total collection	100%
18. Total refuse disposal of (of which—tons were disposed of for other local authorities).	9,553.5 tons
19. Methods of disposal (salvage excluded) Semi-controlled tipping	100%
20. Salvage and Trade Refuse	

Analysis of income and tonnage:—

	Income (Included in Item 2). £	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12). Tons.
Salvage:		
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste ...	371.28	95.55
(b) Scrap Metal ...	—	—
(c) Waste Paper ...	5.76	.95
(d) Other Salvage ...	9.00	.3
Totals	<hr/> 386.04	<hr/> 96.8
Trade Refuse	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections made re Housing Defects—

Informal	459
Public Health Act	147
Housing Act	1

Inspections made re Demolition

562

Inspections made re Clearance

199

Inspections made re Housing Act—

Certificate of Disrepair

5

Improvement Grants

14

Inspections made re Housing Survey

92

Number of Visits re—

Overcrowding

9

Food Shops

184

Shops (Shops Act)	20
Fish Friers	2
Cafe-Restaurant	9
School Meal Centre	2
Meat Preparation Room	2
Food Sampling	2
Milk Shops	8
Ice Cream Premises	18
Ice Cream Sampling	12
Bakehouses	1
Slaughterhouses	28
Default (work by Council)	8
Dairies	2
Factories	35
Factory Canteens	1
Workshops	1
Outworkers	21
Drainage	219
Closet Accommodation	1
Cesspool	11
Dustbins	725
Refuse—House Trade	527
Salvage	4
Vermin	21
Animals—Improperly Kept	12
Ditches	9
Water Supply	5
Accumulations	46
Tents, Vans, Sheds	16
Smoke Abatement	261
Meat Inspections	11
Unsound Foods	159
Food Poisoning	18
Housing Accommodation	18
Rats and Mice (by Sanitary Inspectors)	9
Miscellaneous	52
Aged Persons	647
Infectious Disease—	
Inquiries	9
Disinfection—Premises	57
Clothing	2
Pail Closet	1
VISITS—Total	9
	4,693

DUSTBIN SCHEME

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75 (3). Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Section 8.

During the year dust bins were supplied under the above provisions, as follows:—

Dustbins supplied to 31st March, 1955	334
Others supplied to Council's Houses	193
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
	527

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

	Notices Served.	Notices Completed.	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded.
Informal	... 762	..... 738	..... 42
Statutory	... 64	..... 63	..... 5
Totals	... <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0; margin-right: auto;"/> 826	..... <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0; margin-right: auto;"/> 801	..... <hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0; margin-right: auto;"/> 47

FACTORIES ACT.

Number of Factories on Register (including Bakehouses) ...	86
Number of Visits made—Factories	35
Bakehouses	1
Outworkers' Premises	21
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0; margin-right: auto;"/>
	57

Sanitary Accommodation in Factories—Dealt with.

Found insufficient	—
Found defective	4
Not separate for sexes	—
Want of cleanliness	3
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0; margin-right: auto;"/>
	7

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Primary visits and inquiries	57
Disinfection of infected premises	2
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0; margin-right: auto;"/>
	59

COMPLAINTS.

Complaints received from the Public at the Health Department and dealt with, including all manner of subjects, drainage, house defects, nuisances, etc.	856
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NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN HOUSES: TOGETHER WITH NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS.

House Defects:

House Roofs	23
Ceilings, plaster	15
Walls, plaster	24
External Walls, brickwork and pointing	2
External Walls, rendering	2
Internal Walls, brickwork.....	2
Floors, boards	12
Floors, skirting boards	1
Treads and risers	1
Floor paving, quarries	4
Windows, sash cords	9
Windows, frames	14
Windows, glazing	3
Windows, fastenings	1
Doors, frames	1
Doors	7
Doors, steps	1
Firegrates	8
Firegrates brickwork	1
Chimney, brickwork	1
Chimney, pointing.....	3
Chimney, pots	2
Washboilers	1
General dampness	24
Hot water cisterns	1
Wash hand basins	1
Offensive accumulations	3
Ovens	2
Chimney flues	4
Verminous premises	2

Closet Accommodation Defects:

Water Closet—Structure	4
Cisterns	10
Pedestals	5
Seats	2
Absence of flushing apparatus	11
Defective flushing apparatus	1
Joints	6

Drainage Defects:

Fresh air inlets	1
Gully bed	1
Gully fenders	5
Drains, choked	19
Inspection chambers defective	4
Vent pipes	2
Eavesgutters	7
Rainwater downspouts	6
Sink waste pipe	4
Bath waste pipe	2
Sink supports	1

Miscellaneous Matters:

Dustbins—premises supplied with	331
Animals—improperly kept	4

Factories:

Lighting	1
Limewashing and cleansing	1
Water Closets—Defective	4
Labelling	1
Cleansing	3
Urinal, defective	1

FOOD PREMISES. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF:

Inspections made:

Dairies and Milk Shops	10
Bakehouses	1
Food Shops	184
Ice Cream Shops	18
Re Unsound Food.....	18
Visits made for Supervision of Food Premises	231

Ice Cream and Preserved Foods.

The following premises are registered under the provision of Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

For the sale of Ice Cream	88
For the Manufacture of Ice Cream	8
For the Manufacture of Preserved Food (including Fish Frying)	14
	110

Unsatisfactory Conditions in Food Premises which have been dealt with.

Unsatisfactory state of cleanliness	4
Drainage	1
Fittings	1
Utensils—lack of cleanliness	2
Preparation room, defects	2
Wall Plaster	2
Defective paint work	3
Windows, cleansing	4
Towel and soap	1
Sanitary accommodation, defective	1

ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

The following samples were procured during the year, and were graded according to the methelene blue test, as follows:—

Grade 1	7
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	2
Grade 4	—
 Total	 12

UNSOUND FOODS.

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption:—

	Tins.	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef	1	...	6	—
Carrots	1	...	1	3
Pink Salmon	13	...	100	$\frac{3}{4}$
Pork	—	...	20	—
Bovine livers .....	...	29	275	—
lungs .....	...	16	115	—
heads .....	...	8	194	—
carcasses .....	...	4	2472	—
other parts .....	...	6	45	—
Sheep livers .....	...	76	109	4
lungs .....	...	616	593	8
other parts .....	...	1	1	—
Pigs livers .....	...	2	6	—
lungs .....	...	21	30	8
head .....	...	1	6	—
other parts .....	...	1	4	8
 Totals	 15	 781	 3978	 $15\frac{3}{4}$

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, DURING 1954.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district has been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

MILK

Pasteurised	40
T.T. Pasteurised	26
Channel Islands Pasteurised	6
Channel Islands T.T.	5
Sterilised	35
	—
	112
	—
Number of samples taken	112
Number of samples genuine	111
Number of samples adulterated	1

GENERAL FOODS:

Number of Samples taken	83
Number of Samples genuine	80
Number of Samples adulterated	3

Classification of General Foods.

Butter.	Sild in Olive Oil.	Flour, Self-Raising.
Margarine.	Apple Sauce.	Irish Stew.
Cooking Fat.	Mint Jelly.	Worcestershire Sauce.
Tea.	Beans with Sausage.	Pork Sausage.
Sugar.	Tinted Sugar.	Sliced Beetroot.
Shredded Beef Suet.	Boric Acid Powder.	Peeled Tomatoes.
Crayfish.	Aspirin.	Beef Sausage.
Butter Mints.	Zinc & Castor Oil	Dessert Prunes.
Meat Soup.	Ointment.	Orange Juice.
Vienna Sausages.	Potato Crisps.	Sweetened Carmelle.
Desiccated Coconut.	Ice Cream.	Lemon Cheese.
Coffee & Chicory Essence.	Margarine and 10% Butter.	Chocolate Spread.
Cream.	Peanuts.	Mixed Fruit.
Glycerin.	Glace Cherries.	Batter Mixture.
Castor Oil.	Mixed Pickles.	Whisky.
Cheese.	Pineapple Cubes in Syrup.	Gin.
Parsley.	Tomato Piquant.	Easy Icing, Lemon Flavour.
Pickled Onions.	"Shreddies."	Condensed Full-Cream Milk.
Horseradish Sauce.	Lard.	Tomato Ketchup.
Savoury Spread.	Flour, Plain.	
Gravy Browning		
Sauce Robert.		

Details of Adulterated Samples.

Milk, Sterilised ...	19.0% deficient in Fat. Repeat Samples Genuine.
Easy Icing ...	Ingredients not stated. Labels corrected.
Condensed Full-Cream Milk	Deficient in Milk Solids. Old Stock.
Tomato Ketchup ...	Ingredients not fully stated.

MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR
BACTERIOLOGICAL & BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1954.

Designation	No. Submitted.	Cleanliness Satis. Unsatis.	Phosphatase Pass. Fail.	Turbidity Pass. Fail.	Biological Fail. Submitted.	Found to contain Tubercle Bacilli
Tuberculin Tested	10	9	1	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	82	79	2	79	3	—
Pasteurised	110	107	3	110	—	—
Sterilised	57	—	—	—	57	—
Totals	259	195	6	189	3	57
					—	—
					28	—

One T.T. Pasteurised Sample was submitted for the Phosphatase Test only.

HOUSING.

1.	<i>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year: —</i>	
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	633
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	2506
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932.	58
	(b) Number of Inspections made for that purpose	134
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human inhabitation	627
(5)	Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	Nil
	Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	Nil
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice:—</i>	
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	58
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—</i>	
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	64
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	32
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1

(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 25 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1)	Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	15
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order	5
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4.	<i>Housing Act 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding.</i>	
(a)	(1) Number of dwellings recorded overcrowded at the end of the year	3
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	3
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	28
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	9

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

U. BOOCOCK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

